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SHULTZ DISMISSES OFFICIAL FOR LEAK

State Department Aide Is Said to Have Informed the Press About Note on O'Neill

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 16 — The State Department announced today that George P. Shultz had ordered the dismissal of an official for "an unauthorized disclosure of classified information to the news media." It said it would "deal strictly" in the future on other such cases.

The department declined to identify the individual, but within hours he was named by two high-ranking officials as Spencer C. Warren, a member of the department's policy planning staff. He was reported to have leaked a highly classified cablegram that had been sent last month to Mr. Shultz by Frank V. Ortiz Jr., the United States Ambassador to Argentina, criticizing the behavior of the House Speaker, Thomas P. O'Neill, and other members of a delegation during a visit to Argentina.

The information in the cablegram, which was reported in The Washington Times and The Washington Post, took the members of Congress to task for trying to press Argentine officials into condemning the Administration's Central American policies. The material in the cablegram was classified as "nodis," meaning it was not to be circulated widely because of the politically sensitive criticism and not apparently because of any vital national security matters.

Mr. Warren, who will be 36 on May 29, joined the policy planning staff last year, and before that was deputy director of the House Republican Research Committee. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, where he received a B.A. in 1971, Cornell University Law School in 1974, when he received a J.D., and Columbia University's School of International Affairs, from which he received an M.A. in 1982.

Complaint at News Conference

This was the first time in memory that the State Department had publicly announced the dismissal of an official for "leaks" to the press. It followed by two days Mr. Shultz's complaint at a news conference that the Government had become "a gusher" of such leaks.

"It's disgusting the way stuff leaks out," he said Wednesday. "And we've got to find the people who are doing it and fire them."

This was the latest in a renewed effort by the Reagan Administration to curtail what it contends has been a series of damaging revelations about secret intelligence and diplomatic activity. On April 29, Michael Pillsbury, a Defense Department official, was dismissed for purportedly having provided unauthorized information and after having reportedly failed to pass a polygraph test.

Complaint From Casey

William W. Casey, director of Central Intelligence, complained in a speech Thursday about "widespread violation" of a law prohibiting publication of information about intelligence gathered from intercepted signals.

He had earlier been reported as having called for Justice Department investigation into possible prosecution of newspapers which had published such information. In his speech, Mr. Casey said "the law has been violated but the milk has been spilled," and so he was not now favoring retroactive legal action. But he said the laws to protect this "very narrow segment of information" dealing with communications intelligence "must now be enforced."

George Lauder, spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency, also said today that because of "great concern among the leaders of the intelligence community about the spate of leaks of

sensitive intelligence information to the media," it would not cooperate in providing information about intelligence matters. Mr. Lauder emphasized that the intelligence community had been ordered not to cooperate with The New York Times or any other newspapers in providing information about intelligence matters.

Investigative Reporting Cited

"There's great concern among the leaders of the intelligence community about the spate of leaks of sensitive intelligence information to the media," he said. "We are doing what we can to stop them. We're advised that The New York Times has created an investigative group to compete with a similar group at The Washington Post on stories about intelligence. The community declines to be the original source of information on intelligence matters."

Bill Kovach, Washington editor of The New York Times, said in response to Mr. Lauder's statement, "We are simply going about our normal business of trying to inform our readers about the operations of their Government."

Charles E. Redman, a State Department spokesman, said the department did not announce the name of the official who was dismissed because he has already paid a "price for his transgression." Mr. Redman said the person dismissed was a political appointee, with

the grade of GS-15, which means that he held a job at below the policy-making level. That position carries a salary of between \$52,000 to \$67,000 annually depending on years in grade.

He said the individual was not asked to take a polygraph test and that he had apologized to Mr. Shultz for his actions.

Regrets Are Expressed

"We regret that because of this transgression the department is losing an otherwise productive and trustworthy employee," Mr. Redman said. "But we believe that leaking of classified information is a serious breach of the discipline required of all public servants."

"It is essential that the public be informed concerning the activities of its Government," Mr. Redman said. "However, we must also recognize that the national interest often requires that information concerning the national defense and foreign relations be protected against unauthorized disclosure. Officials who leak do not serve the larger national interest by disclosing information, but instead may well be undermining the process of making foreign policy and protecting our national defense."

He said, "Leaks can betray confidences and embarrass other governments, making them less willing to confide in us."